

REMARKS

Claim Rejections:

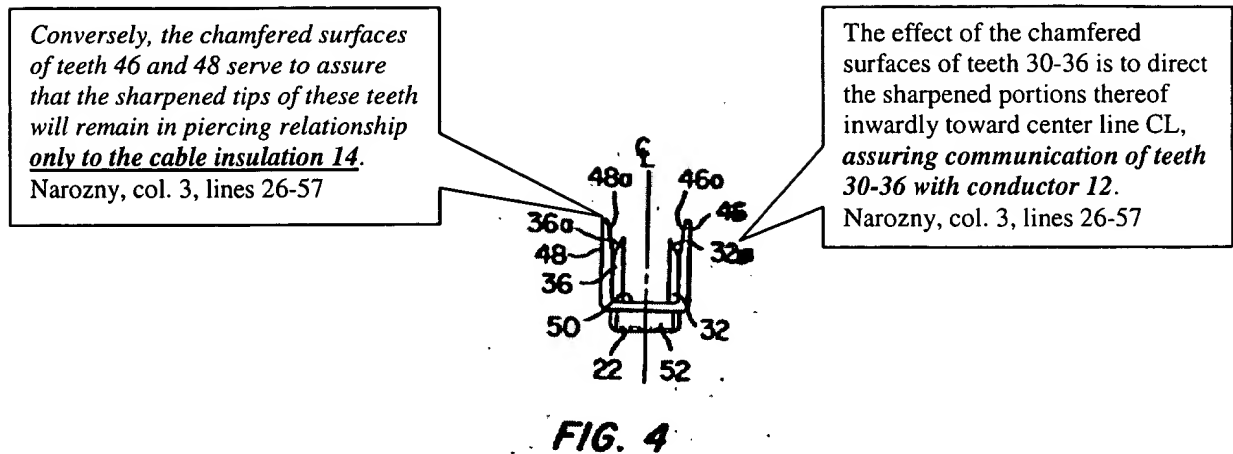
Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are all of the claims pending in the present application and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,561,714 to Byczek et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,371,225 to Narozny. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As an initial matter, although the Examiner has applied Byczek as the primary reference, the Examiner is relying on the Narozny reference to teach having the distal portion inclined with respect to an internal surface of the root portion. Because of this, and because Applicant submits that the discussion of the Narozny reference is dispositive of the issues in the present case, the following discussion will focus on the Narozny reference.

Narozny discloses a terminal 16 connected to a flat cable 10 having a casing 14 and flat conductors 12 within it. The terminal 16 has a number of projections 30, 32, 34, 36, 46 and 48 which are designed to penetrate through the cable 10. As shown in Figure 4 (reproduced below), the projections 30, 32, 34 and 36 have tapered surfaces (i.e. 32a and 36a) which taper away from each other, while the projections 46 and 48 have tapered surfaces 46a and 48a which face each other.



As shown above, the tapered surfaces 46a and 48a are similar to those disclosed in the present application. However, there is an important distinction. Specifically, in the present application (as set forth in the claims), the pair of piercing portions extend through both a conductor and a coating, but in Narozny, the projections 46 and 48 do not pierce the conductor.

In fact, Narozny states:

The lateral spacing between teeth 46 and 48 is selected to be of measure D_2 (FIG. 1), i.e., a distance sufficiently in excess of the width of conductors 12 to insure that side margins 42 and 44 and the totality of teeth 46 and 48 are disposed outwardly of conductor 12 when teeth 30-36 are disposed ... in confronting relation to conductor 12. Upon forcing of the cable onto connector 16, teeth 46 and 48 pierce insulative casing 14 only and do not confront conductor 12. ... the chamfered surfaces of teeth 46 and 48 extend inwardly toward connector centerline CL, thus providing that the sharpened tips of teeth 46 and 48 pierce insulation of flat cable 10 substantially outwardly of conductors 12. The effect of the chamfered surfaces of teeth 30-36 is to direct the sharpened portions thereof inwardly toward center line CL, assuring communication of teeth 30-36 with conductor 12. *Conversely, the chamfered surfaces of teeth 46 and 48 serve to assure that the sharpened tips of these teeth will remain in piercing relationship only to the cable insulation 14.* Narozny, col. 3, lines 26-57 (emphasis added).

As shown above, in the emphasized text, Narozny expressly teaches that the use of the interior tapered surfaces is to keep the portions 46 and 48 away from the conductor. This is completely contrary to the present invention.

Thus, taking these teachings and assuming one of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Narozny with Byczek, the resultant combination would have the projections 32 (in Byczek) with a tapered surface on its outer side and not its interior side. Narozny expressly teaches that to ensure proper connection of the teeth 30-36 with the conductors 12, the tapered surfaces (32a and 36a) are to be on the outer surface of the teeth. Thus, this is how one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified Byczek. Stated differently, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have tapered the inner surfaces because Narozny expressly teaches that this should be done to ensure that the teeth avoid contact with the conductor.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that even if one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the above references (which Applicant does not admit) the resultant combination of the above references would not render the present invention obvious, as they would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention. In fact, Narozny expressly teaches away from the present invention.. As such, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/910,872

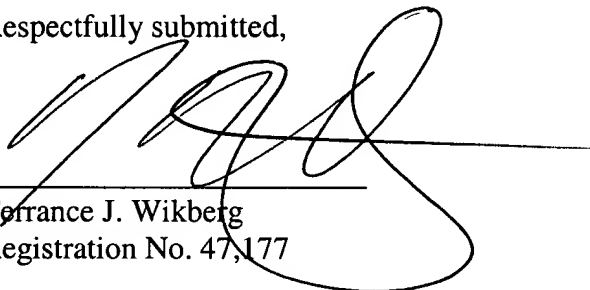
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Art Unit: 2833

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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